# SYLLABUS
# PHYS 461 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

## INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Stan Dodds
Office: 215 Herzstein Hall
Email: dodds@rice.edu

Your research mentor is your immediate supervisor. All questions relating to your specific research program should be referred to him or her.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To conduct mentored research in experimental, theoretical or computational physics, astrophysics or astronomy
- To increase knowledge of and experience with current research methods in those areas

## COURSE PROCEDURES

Students intending to enroll in PHYS 461 should discuss possible opportunities with a Physics and Astronomy faculty member well before the start of the semester. The student will then prepare, in consultation with the research advisor, a one-page summary of the proposed project, and agree on the credit hours to be awarded. The summary must be signed by both the advisor and student.

To register, bring a copy of the proposal and a special registration form (http://registrar.rice.edu/student/special_registration/) to the course instructor (not your research mentor) for signature. The special registration form must be submitted to the Registrar before the close of business on the add deadline, usually the second week of the term.

At the end of the semester the student will prepare, in consultation with the research advisor, a one-page progress report, enumerating accomplishments during the term. The progress report must be signed by both the advisor and student, and delivered to the course instructor no later than the first day of finals.

## GRADE POLICIES

Your grade in this course will be determined by your faculty research mentor, based on progress toward your project goals.

Students should anticipate spending approximately three hours per week actively engaged in project work for each semester hour of credit. Students will not receive credit if they are being paid.

## RICE HONOR CODE

In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook at http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/. This handbook outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.

## DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

If you have a documented disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Support Services (Allen Center, Room 111 / adarice@rice.edu / x5841) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) talk with both the PHYS 461 instructor and your research mentor to discuss your accommodation needs.

## SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

This syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.